



## Hilda L. Solis

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### **New Trauma Center Rises**

One of the issues that came up to my attention immediately was that we did not have a trauma facility from downtown Los Angeles, LAC USC Medical Center, and Pomona. Here was an opportunity, I thought, to get the County engaged again. So six weeks into my office, we began to piece together how we could make this happen. And Pomona Valley here, the hospital has been so receptive, the community came on board, along with our elected officials, so it was a collaborative effort. Now in the short span of perhaps a year or so, this will be a fully open and operating trauma center.

### **An 'Awesome' Year**

If I could sum up how I feel about the progress that we made this past year in the County, it's awesome. It's awesome. And I would say to people that there are so many good things that the County can do. We have to start looking at issues on a broader scale. So I'm talking about, for example, this facility here, regional healthcare, and opportunities for jobs in healthcare, and expanding our reach and doing that in a way that everyone wins in the County—including our employees, but more importantly the people that entrust their lives with the County of Los Angeles.

### **Creating Higher Living Standards**

Something that we've been struggling with in our economy is a need to bring people up to higher living standards so that they have good livable wages. And one of the things that we did immediately on the board was to help pass an increase in the minimum wage, which will be factored in over the course of five years, to \$15 an hour. But what's important is that we also work with our local businesses in unincorporated parts of L.A. County. So for example, in my district, in East Los Angeles, that is a vast, vast community—and there are many people there that could benefit from getting information about the minimum wage, but also businesses that employ people. And we made an effort to make sure that we could help small businesses transition into that, so that they wouldn't be adversely affected. The second part of that was just recently a motion that I passed regarding wage theft. And there are a lot of people in my district and throughout the County of Los Angeles, in fact, who are not aware that they have certain rights, that there are certain federal and state laws that are in place to protect people, to make sure that they get paid the minimum wage, and that they also are able to know if an employer is paying for overtime or not.

### **Quality of Life Matters**

I think quality of life stands out for me. So if people are making good salaries—whether it's a higher minimum wage, or a livable wage, or have health care coverage—those are all very important basics that can help a person's quality of life. So I think all those things are coming together for us. Looking at how we can expand and strengthen those types of agencies and services—that is going to be a win-win for us. The fact that we're moving now toward helping to provide more diversion, housing for the homeless, helping our young people also get training and exposure to new jobs in areas that are growing—like in the healthcare industry, in the biomedical field, in I.T. and also in new environmental greening projects. All these are going to be helpful, and I know there's a real interest on the part of the board to move in that direction.



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**"I believe that healthcare is a right, not a privilege. In a democratic society, we all deserve that."**

### **Making History**

It's a transitional year—a year of significant progress. I wanted to be on the campus of the Martin Luther King Community Hospital because of its historic significance. History has been made anew here at the new hospital, and there is no better place for me to be in celebration of the high point of this year of service to the people of the County of Los Angeles. It's probably not easy for me to express the emotion that enveloped me on the occasion of dedicating the new hospital. So many people have worked very, very hard to get us here.

### **The Right to Quality Healthcare**

I believe that healthcare is a right, not a privilege. In a democratic society, we all deserve that. And so to be in a place where we can say that you will receive the highest quality of care available—regardless of your income, your ethnicity, your gender, your preference, it doesn't make a difference. You come to this hospital and you will be met with competence and high quality care informed by compassion. And so to the extent that's the case...yep, pretty emotional.

### **Important Work Underway**

The opening of the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Hospital is one stellar example when you think of what we have done as a Board of Supervisors. With respect to income inequality along the lines of the minimum wage, the living wage, issues related to wage theft, it seems to me that we have done a lot of important work. When you think about our work in terms of diversion, creating alternatives to incarceration—progress. When you think about the work that we're doing on the matter of homelessness, which I believe is a moral outrage, and we cannot tolerate the conditions in which fellow residents and citizens live, and we have an obligation to do that and we are moving on that very, very forcefully and thoughtfully. I call that progress.

### **Transition and Progress**

This is the year of a new CEO, a new governance model. It's a transitional year—a year of significant progress.



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### **A Milestone in Public Service**

This is the Zev Yaroslavsky Family Support Center. We just opened it this year and it is one of the great milestones, really, for the Third District, and I think for the entire County. We brought together the services of so many different County departments in this building. And even more importantly, when you come for services in the building, you go into the entry hall, meet a navigator, they sit you down for an interview, and then they bring the services to you.

### **Protecting the Vulnerable**

I think there are so many other things in terms of our vulnerable children; in terms of the Office of Child Protection, filling that post and developing it in a robust manner; changing the provision of health services in the jail so that our health agency provides in the jail now; adopting a large program having to do with our sexually exploited children, including a whole program under which we never refer to them any longer as prostitutes. We did a couple of motions that related to the LGBT community—very important to me—one of them to ask for a report on the ways that all of our departments can help our LGBT children. I think all of these were very, very important to our most vulnerable populations.

### **Moving Forward, Looking Ahead**

I would say the minimum wage was extremely important. L.A. City and then the County, it brings it to more than half of all the businesses in the County on the same page in terms of paying the minimum wage. In terms of transportation, we're completing the Expo Line out to Santa Monica, we're building a new part of the Purple Line that's going to go to LACMA, and then of course then beyond to the VA. Very important in the Third District, but I think very important for transportation in the whole County.

I think what we did this year will pay off for future generations in the short term and in the long term. There are going to be thousands and thousands of people that get mental health treatment instead of being sent to jail. We united the three health agencies into one agency, to treat the whole person—I think that's going to make a big difference to people. But I think in health and in incarceration and I think, thirdly, in the way we think about helping our children ... those will be the hallmarks of this year and I think help for the future.

### **Optimism in Action**

If I had to sum the past year in one word, I think it would be optimism. I think the optimism shown, by the kinds of motions that we've adopted over the past year, the kinds of large actions that we've taken and then the smaller focused actions, show that we believe in service, that we believe in our 100,000 workforce, and that we believe that the County is central to improving the lives of all people that live here.



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### **Safe Surrender: A Legacy of Lives Saved**

I've been blessed to represent the people of the Fourth District for the last 19 years, one year left on my term. But I think the most significant issue has been the Safe Surrender program. I can't think of anything else that I've done politically that's been non-political but had the biggest impact on lives and families than the Safe Surrender program. We do a lot of different things in the County of Los Angeles. We're the ultimate safety net. But being able to save 140 lives since 2001, and the families and the joy that has been brought: To me, if I have a legacy, that's it.

This year we have saved 16 lives, which is the most lives we have ever saved, which brings us to a total of a 140 lives that we've saved here in Los Angeles County. No name. No shame. No blame. One hundred forty lives have been saved, 140 families have been blessed and 140 mothers had the courage and the guts to do the right thing to bring that child to any hospital, any sheriff's station, or any fire station.

### **The Fight Against Human Trafficking**

The milestones as they relate to the child sex trafficking issue obviously are very significant. Everybody thinks it's in some foreign country, when it's right here in our backyard. This is probably the most horrific crime I've ever had to deal with in my political life—girls 12, 14, as young as 10 years old. There's no conscious way any young girl like that selects an opportunity to stand on a corner. We've created a program called "There's no such thing as a child prostitute." They are victims. We have done a lot of things legislatively to create penalties for the scumbag pimps as well as the johns, but now we are focusing on the johns because we think they don't deserve a slap on the hand. They can call it child prostitution or soliciting—I call it child rape. That's what is, and that's what it's going to be, and that's what we're going after. We've come a long way in Los Angeles County. We're on the forefront nationally now. People are looking at our programs and what we're doing in the whole area of child sex trafficking because now we've raised the level of attention—that it is not in some foreign country, it's here, in our county, in our state, and in our nation.

### **Rancho Rises**

We're here at Rancho, and with Rancho Rising 2020 coming out of the ground, you are going to see some incredible things here, from a wellness center to new outpatient clinics, to everything else here at Rancho, where miracles are performed each and every day. Tonight happens to be the annual art show, where the artists and crafters and patients here at Rancho show their works and their wares to the public. It's a fun night where they get to sort show off their artwork. It's a program we are very proud of here at Rancho, using art as a rehabilitation function. This is just a very special place.

### **Setting the Stage for Better Lives**

We are having an expansion of library programs throughout the county, particularly in my district. That is one of my outbox items that I want to do before I leave. But what we are trying to do is to set the stage so that we as a county are prepared to deal with young people, the quality of life and the safety net which is so important here in Los Angeles County. We are the largest county in America. That's our job: the safety net. We talk about how do you help people, how do you make a difference in people's lives.



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**Leadership and Action**

It was a year of change. We have two new Supervisors, a new Tax Assessor, a new Sheriff. We have a new County Counsel and a new Chief Executive Officer. At the top, we have new leadership providing action, and that action translated into repealing the very bureaucratic, costly, interim structure running the County. That has saved, just off the top, \$2 million by elimination of bureaucratic fat. The Sheriff's Department has done an incredible job in reforming his department. The Tax Assessor is bringing in computers to update their system, and again we just go right down that line—and with the Health Department, we've been able to consolidate.

**A Wide Range of Achievements**

The Productivity Commission had over \$75 million dollars in savings, and along with that we have about a \$4 billion savings since 1981-82, when the commission was established, which I initiated back in those days. It continues to be a vital part of the County of Los Angeles in improving our delivery of services, with cost effective services and economical services that save dollars that could be better used for other vital services.

For our veterans, we have established a one-stop center at the Patriotic Hall, so all the agencies are there to help our veterans with housing and other types of programs.

We were able to bring BYD, Build Your Dreams vehicle manufacturing, from China to Los Angeles County. They are now producing the electric buses in Lancaster. These will be sold nationally, which is going to help our county economically with jobs and providing a good product.

**Looking Out For the Animals**

We established a mobile spay-and-neuter clinic that's going out. We've had some innovations in trying to reduce the cost of adoptions, to increase those adoptions. We've been very aggressive moving forward with upgrading and building new animal shelters and we want to ensure that these animals are going to be adopted by other people. And every animal that we have presented at the Board of Supervisors, since I initiated this program many, many, years ago, has been adopted and we want to continue that. We even had a horse adopted this past year.

**Pride in Service**

Forbes magazine rated Los Angeles County as one of the top employers in the United States. We are one of the top employers in the United States. This is something we are very proud of. We're proud of our workforce, and we are proud of the way we deliver services.